

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



August 2020

srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Upcoming Events

Monthly Meeting — Monday, August 3rd First United Methodist Church, Clyde, Ohio

- Cancelled due to meeting limitations associated
- with the State of Ohio Covid-19 response plan.

Special Speaker—Monday, August 3rd 7:00 pm

- Presented using the ZOOM app.
- Topic: “Successful Over-Wintering”
- Presenter: Jamie Walters, Director of the Maumee Valley Area of OSBA, and President of the Black Swamp Bee Club located in Defiance Ohio.



Message from the President

Welcome to August!

Again I wish I had some encouraging words about having a meeting, but I don't. With the Covid-19 concerns and the recommendations from the State and County Health Departments, the August in-person meeting will be cancelled as well as the annual Club Picnic which we had scheduled for September.

In the July newsletter I had asked for any ideas from you the members about getting together for a meeting, but nobody replied. This doesn't really surprise me because I really can't think of a way to meet and stay safe either. This Covid-19 has a strong hold on everything and it is currently on the incline again, at least in Sandusky County. As of July 15th we are up to 191 cases compared to June 10th when we had 102 cases (this is from the Sandusky County Public Health, published report).

But not all is lost with getting together. At the first of the year, the executive board had made arrangements with the Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) and their Traveling Speaker Program to give us a class of our choosing from a list of topics for the month of August. We chose “Successful Over-Wintering” which will be presented by Jamie Walters, a Director of the Maumee Valley Area of OSBA, and the President of the Black Swamp Bee Club located in Defiance, Ohio.

Jamie will be presenting this topic via Zoom meeting on Monday August 3rd at 7:00pm. Please write this on your calendar and we will be sending out emails prior to August 3rd with the meeting number and password as a reminder. But please remember this will be on a ZOOM App, which you will need to download prior to the event if you haven't already. The procedure will be the same as the May 4th meeting we had with the Zoom App and Jeannie Saum from Beepothecary.

Message from the President (continued)

Like I mentioned in the past, this year has pretty much been a total bust with our get togethers, the Fairs, speakers and speaking arrangements for the club to give. But we need to stick together. We'll get through this. If any of you have a question or concern please call, or text someone from the club. I can't think of any member who would be upset or wouldn't help if another club member asked for assistance with a problem. We are here for each other, for your concerns and with suggestions to questions you might have.

One more thing that we all need to think about is elections of new officers for 2021. SRVBA will be in need of two Executive Officers for 2021. The first, the Treasurer position currently held by Linda Miller, according to the SRVBA constitution and by-laws her 3 year term is up at the end of 2020 and she can no longer hold the office of Treasurer. The second, is Secretary, which is currently held by Angel Mitchell. Angel has decided not to run in 2021 since her personal schedule has changed to the point that she feels she can no longer give the time that is needed to the position. Even though Linda and Angel will continue to be involved and members of SRVBA they will be really missed in their Officers positions. They both have given 100% as club members and officers.

If any member would like to run for one of these offices or any other office, please contact Director Tami Wylie at: tamwylie@gmail.com

IN THE HIVE

I've received a few calls this summer about the large amount of bees hanging on the outside of the hive during the heat of the day and sometimes all night for days on end, asking if this is a swarm or what is happening.

Over the last few days it has been 90° and higher with a heat index of even higher. When the temperature in a colony climbs much past the 98°+, the bees depopulate the colony and will beard out the front, allowing the hive to cool. The foragers also start taking in water, guard bees will be on the front entrance and throughout the hive fanning their wings to thermoregulate as they expel the water. This creates a "swamp cooler" effect, thus cooling the colony. If you need to inspect the colony, it's best to inspect in the early morning or later evening when it cools down.

What happens when you open/tear into the colony during this heat? The bees rush into the hive to protect their food stores, nectar, and brood. This completely destroys the "swamp cooler" effect. Once the bees lose this, they begin to overheat, causing them to defecate inside the hive making a mess and causing added stress to the colony.

Message from the President

(continued)

Another thing we as beekeepers need to do is monitor your Varroa Mite load. I can't stress enough the importance of checking for mites. Your August new bees are the start of what bees you will have going into the winter. The cooler and colder weather will add enough stress on your colonies, and it's really important to have the healthiest bees possible that are mite free, fat happy bees. So please conduct Varroa Mite inspections; look at your drone brood, look at your bees, and do alcohol wash or a sugar roll to obtain a Varroa Mite count. Treat accordingly to the manufacturing label on your choice of treatment. So please check for mites. They are there!

So many times in the spring we get asked, " Why did my bees die"?

https://youtu.be/ZWtSbVXqO_Y (Meghan Milbrath 2018) and I'll ask if you treated for mites. The answer I received is no, or I didn't see any on the bees by just looking. So again, please do alcohol washes or a sugar roll to monitor your varroa mite count in the month of August and September.

Also, when your in the bee yard drink fluids, wear/zip-up your veils, and light that smoker. The bees might be a bit more defensive at this time of the year.

<https://youtu.be/k95CrnTSTCY> Alcohol wash method

<https://youtu.be/lqPft9FQxLc>. Both alcohol and sugar roll methods.

Medication Breakdown Chart

There are many different types of bee medication options and it can often be confusing which medication to use. The chart below provides basic information about the available medications and their uses. By no means are these directions on how to treat your bees, but rather just a guide to help you. Please read and follow the directions provided on the labels.

Oxalic Acid:

Treat Varroa Mites

Three approved treatment methods: Solution (dribble) method, Vaporizer Method, and Spraying Package Bees.

Most effective in the winter and times with no Brood.

Approved for treating packaged bees.

Message from the President (continued)

Api Life VAR:

Treat Varroa Mites

Break one wafer into 4 pieces and place on the corners of the brood nest.

Apply 3 times, every 7-10 days for 30 day treatment.

Temperatures must be between 64-95°.

Supers can be installed after treatment but cannot be harvested for 30 days.

MiteAway Quick Strip:

Treat Varroa Mites

Apply two strips near the edges of the brood box.

Leave for 7 days.

Daytime temperatures must be 50-92°

Treatment can be done with honey supers on the hive.

Strips are compostable.

Apivar:

Treat Varroa Mites

Hang one strip per every 5 frames of brood. Typically two strips per hive.

44-56 day treatment when bees are able to move freely throughout hive.

Not suitable during Honey Flow.

Supers can be installed 2 weeks after treatment.

Apistan:

Treat Varroa Mites

Hang 2 strips in the brood nest for 45 days.

Anytime when the bees are able to move about the hive.

Not suitable during a honey flow.

Supers can be installed after treatment.

There are pockets of resistance to the active ingredient, so make sure the treatment is working.

Message from the President (continued)

Checkmite:

Treat Varroa Mite and Small Hive Beetle (SHB)

Varroa Mite treatment, hang 2 strips in the middle of the brood nest for 45 days.

Small Hive Beetle treatment, staple a half a strip to corrugated plastic and place it strip down on the back of the bottom board.

Anytime when the bees are able to move about the hive.

Not suitable during a honey flow.

Supers cannot be installed for 2 weeks after treatment.

Pockets of resistance.

Unavailable due to EPA registration.

Fumagilin B:

Treat Nosema

Mix with sugar water and feed to the bees. Dosage is different for spring and fall.

Cannot be feed during or right before honey flow.

Effective against *N. apis* and *N. caryae*.

Menthol:

Treat Tracheal Mites

50 grams of menthol is applied over the brood nest for 28 days.

Day time highs should be over 70°.

Supers cannot be added for 14 days after treatment.

GardStar:

Treat Small Hive Beetle (SHB)

Applied to the ground around the hive(s) in 16"-24" wide band.

Summer treatment when SHB larva are leaving the hive to pupate.

Should be applied in the evening when bees are not flying.

Stay safe

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President

ARS finds subletters in honey bee colony

Heather Gooch | July 6, 2020

<https://www.mypmp.net/2020/07/06/ars-finds-subletters-in-honey-bee-colony/>



PHOTO: DEEPSpacedAVE/ISTOCK / GETTY IMAGES PLUS/GETTY IMAGES

The team at the [Agricultural Research Service \(ARS\) Bee Disease Diagnostic Service](#) in Beltsville, Md., were recently called upon to solve a mystery — uncovering new pollinator behavior in the process.

According to a news release, a state apiary inspector found unusual insect cocoons inside cells of a beekeeper's honey bee colony in Ohio. She sent two pieces of comb to the ARS team for possible identification, over concern that the cocoons could represent a threat to the honey bees.

The cocoons were brown, about 3/8 inches long, and had a hard black spot resembling a nipple at the end. They were strongly attached to the cells, with bee wax on both sides of the comb. The water-resistant cocoons were wrapped in a thin layer of brown silky threads; they were hard to cut open.

The team was able to identify the cocoons as those from the horned-face bee (*Osmia cornifrons*). This solitary mason bee is native to northern Asia, but has been in the U.S. since the 1970s. It is more docile than honey bees or bumble bees.

Until now, however, horned-face bees were never reported as cocooning in honey bee colonies. About 40 cocoons were found in the colony, which researchers say is more than one female bee can produce alone. Thus, this wasn't the act of a single confused horned-face bee. But the "subletting" does not seem to have had a negative effect on the honey bee colony. They published their findings in the [April 14, 2020 edition of *Journal of Apicultural Research*](#).

The ARS team says it's important to stay vigilant for any unusual activities in honey bee comb. This finding will also help researchers explore the possibility that horned-face bees will reproduce in other unusual materials.

Classifieds

Cherry City Honey Woodenware – Tami & Gary Wylie

Cherry City Honey stocks and sells new bee hive equipment from our barn. Due to our location in the Clyde-Bellevue area, it's approximately a one hour drive to the nearest bee equipment supply store. This drive is inconvenient, time consuming and expensive.

Also, online orders from distant suppliers often require purchase of larger quantities to obtain fair pricing and shipping/freight rates for new equipment are expensive.

We stock bee equipment you'll most likely need. Our bee hive boxes and equipment is of the highest quality and comes already assembled and ready for you to paint before use. The equipment is available for pick-up only.

We don't ship because the high shipping rates makes new bee equipment unreasonably costly. We can arrange for local delivery in the Bellevue-Clyde area. We accept cash or credit cards for payment.

Please compare our prices and consider us for your bee hive equipment needs.



2020 Price List
Gary & Tami Wylie
1000 County Road 312
Bellevue OH 44811
419-271-2720

10 Frame Equipment	Price
Vented Top Cover	\$25.00
Inner Cover	\$10.00
Deep Hive Body	\$20.00
Medium Super	\$17.00
Solid Bottom Board	\$20.00
Screened Bottom Board (with debris board)	\$16.00
Frames with Foundation (Acorn Plastic – heavier wax coated) (assembled)	\$3.15

Foundation Acorn Plastic (wax coated) Deep/Medium-OUT OF STOCK	\$1.75/\$1.50
Foundation Acorn Plastic (heavier wax coated) Deep/Medium	\$2.20/1.80
Foundation Quick Draw Yellow (Mann Lake Max Wax) - Deep/Medium	\$2.40/\$2.20

2020 Price List (continued)

Single Hive Kit (1 screened bottom board, 1 deep box w/10 frames & foundations, 1 inner cover, 1 vented top cover, and 1 entrance reducer)	\$100.00
Double Hive Kit (1 screened bottom board, 2 deep box w/20 frames & foundations, 1 inner cover, 1 vented top cover, and 1 entrance reducer)	\$150.00
Double Hive Kit with 2 Supers (1 screened bottom board, 2 deep box w/20 frames & foundations, 1 inner cover, 1 vented top cover, 2 medium supers w/20 frames & foundations, and 1 entrance reducer)	\$240.00
Entrance Reducers	\$2.00
Queen Excluders (metal)	\$12.00
Top Feeder w/Float Rack	\$25.00
Boardman Feeder w/1 quart mason jar	\$10.00
Stainless Steel Smoker (wood bellows with temperature guard)	\$34.00
Hive Tool (J-Hook Style)	\$10.00
Wooden Bee Sweep Brush (horsehair)	\$10.00

Nuc Equipment

Price

Deep Hive Body	\$17.00
Screened Bottom Board (with debris board)	\$15.00
Migratory Cover	\$8.00
Top Feeder w/Float Rack	\$25.00
Steel Entrance Gate-Circular Disc (Diameter:12.5CM)	\$4.00